

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A hand tool comprising:

a handle;

a head attached to the handle, the head defining a compartment;

a gear wheel rotatably mounted in the compartment, the gear wheel including a plurality of gear wheel teeth and having a rotational axis about which the plurality of gear wheel teeth rotate; and

a pawl disposed in the compartment, the pawl comprising a plurality of pawl teeth, the pawl teeth comprising a first teeth portion having a first center of curvature and a second teeth portion having a second center of curvature, wherein the gear wheel teeth mesh with the first teeth portion or the second teeth portion and wherein the first center of curvature and the second center of curvature are located at different positions; and

wherein the pawl is movable between a first position, wherein the first teeth portion of the pawl engages the gear wheel for ratcheting in a first direction, and a second position, wherein the second teeth portion of the pawl engages the gear wheel for ratcheting in a second direction, and by pivoting about the rotational axis of the gear wheel.

2. (Original) The hand tool of claim 1, wherein the compartment comprises a first section and a second section, the second section being smaller than the first section, and wherein the gear wheel is rotatably mounted in the first section and the pawl is mounted in the second section.

3. (Original) The hand tool of claim 2, wherein the second section is defined by a wall, the wall including a first wall portion and a second wall portion and wherein the pawl bears against the first wall portion in the first position and against the second wall portion in the second position.

4. (Original) The hand tool of claim 1 wherein the tool is adapted to tighten or loosen a fastener.

5. (Original) The hand tool of claim 4 further comprising a drive member attached to the gear wheel.

6. (Original) The hand tool of claim 5 wherein the drive member comprises a drive column for releasably engaging a socket.

7. (Original) The hand tool of claim 1 wherein the pawl teeth form a substantially concave surface.

8.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A tool comprising:

a body having a head and a handle formed of a single piece, the head having a first compartment, the first compartment having a maximum diameter, and a second compartment,

the second compartment having an opening for communicating with the first compartment,
the opening having a width that is less than the maximum diameter of the first compartment;

a gear wheel rotatably mounted in the first compartment, the gear wheel comprising a plurality of gear wheel teeth, wherein said gear wheel rotates about a rotational axis; and

a pawl disposed in the second compartment, the pawl comprising a plurality of pawl teeth facing the gear wheel teeth, the pawl teeth comprising a first teeth portion having a first center of curvature and a second teeth portion having a second center of curvature, the second center of curvature being located at a position different from the first center of curvature, wherein the pawl is movable between a first position, wherein the first teeth portion of the pawl engages the gear wheel for ratcheting in a first direction, and a second position, wherein the second teeth portion of the pawl engages the gear wheel for ratcheting in a second direction, by rotating about the rotational axis of the gear wheel.

16. (Original) The tool of claim 15 further comprising a drive member attached to the gear wheel.

17. (Original) The tool of claim 16 wherein the drive member comprises a drive column for releasably engaging a socket.

18. (Original) The tool of claim 15, wherein the gear wheel is rotatably mounted in the first compartment and the pawl is mounted in the second compartment.

19. (Original) The tool of claim 15, wherein the pawl teeth are noncontinuous.

20. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 15, wherein the head further comprises:
a top surface having a hole located between the first compartment and the handle.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Original) The tool of claim 15, wherein the pawl teeth form a substantially concave surface.
23. (Currently amended) A tool comprising:
a handle;
a head attached to the handle, the head including a compartment, the compartment comprising a first section and a second section, the second section having a smaller diameter than the first section, and the second section being at least partially defined by a wall, the wall comprising a first wall portion and a second wall portion;
a gear wheel rotatably mounted in the first section, the gear wheel comprising a plurality of gear wheel teeth; and
a pawl disposed in the second section, the pawl comprising a first side with a plurality of pawl teeth engaging the gear wheel teeth, the pawl teeth including a first teeth portion having a first center of curvature and a second teeth portion having a second center of curvature located at a position different from the first center of curvature, the pawl being movable between a first position, wherein the first teeth portion of the pawl engages the gear wheel for ratcheting in a first direction, and a second position, wherein the second teeth portion of the pawl engages the gear wheel for ratcheting in a second direction, by pivoting

about the rotational axis of the gear wheel, and wherein the pawl further comprises a second side that bears against the first wall portion in the first position and against the second wall portion in the second position.

24. (Original) The tool of claim 23 wherein the tool is adapted to tighten or loosen a fastener.

25. (Original) The tool of claim 24 further comprising a drive member attached to the gear wheel.

26. (Original) The tool of claim 25 wherein the drive member comprises a drive column for releasably engaging a socket.

27.-61. (Cancelled)